



Rep. Bruce Chandler



Rep. Dan Newhouse



Sen. Jim Honeyford

2003 15th Survey Legislative Results District

Dear friends,

Thank you for responding to the survey that we sent to your home earlier this year. Your responses have been very valuable to us as we consider legislation.

We thought you may be interested to know how your neighbors in the 15th District responded. The following is a tabulation of the total results.

Please feel free to contact our offices if you have any questions, comments, suggestions or ideas about state government.

Sincerely,


Rep. Bruce Chandler


Rep. Dan Newhouse


Sen. Jim Honeyford

Legislative priorities

We asked you to rank the following issues in order of their importance to you. This tally shows your first choice.

25%	Education
20%	Crime and security
17%	Health care
14%	Property taxes
10%	Water supplies
6%	Environment
4%	Growth management and land use
3%	Social services
1%	Transportation

Budget and spending

How should the Legislature address the budget deficit?

45%	Cut public services. Don't raise taxes
28%	Rely mostly on cuts with modest tax increases
10%	Maintain current programs at the current spending level
10%	Rely mostly on tax increases with modest cuts in services
7%	Raise taxes. Don't cut public services

If you prefer that some or all of the budget deficit be made up through cuts, which areas of the budget do you believe should receive cuts?

29%	Environmental regulation
28%	Social services
14%	Higher education
8%	K-12 education
4%	Health care
4%	Law enforcement

CONTACT US!

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Education funding

In 2000, voters approved Initiative 732 to give teachers and K-12 employees automatic cost-of-living increases, and Initiative 728 to increase funding for class-size reduction. Unfortunately, the initiatives did not provide for the revenue necessary to pay for themselves. Given the budget deficit we now face, what best describes your opinion about these initiatives?

- 41%

Funding for these initiatives should be postponed until the budget deficit is brought under control
- 26%

These initiatives should be sent back to a vote of the people along with the necessary revenue increase
- 21%

The voters have spoken and these initiatives should be fully funded, even if it means tax increases or cutting services for other citizens
- 12%

We should continue funding one of them, but not the other. Which initiative do you continue to support?
- 57%

I-732
- 43%

I-728

Jobs and economy

With Washington’s unemployment rate so high, a major focus for the Legislature this year is to find ways to create jobs, retain existing businesses and attract new ones. Which of the following proposals would you support?

- 24%

Streamline permitting so businesses can locate and expand in Washington without costly delays
- 22%

Change the regulatory environment to make Washington more attractive to business
- 18%

Maintain existing business tax exemptions and further reduce business taxes
- 15%

Repeal the state’s new ergonomics rules
- 11%

Reform state worker compensation and unemployment programs
- 10%

Reform the minimum wage law

Transportation

How should the Legislature respond to our transportation needs?

- 82%

Focus on efficiency and accountability methods to gain the most from existing tax dollars
- 15%

Increase the gas tax
- 3%

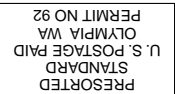
No changes are needed

One proposal being debated in Olympia would raise the gas tax by one penny each time the Department of Transportation successfully reaches efficiency goals (e.g., if DOT saved a specific amount of money by contracting out more work to the private sector, it would trigger a one-cent increase) for a maximum increase of 5 cents a gallon. Which describes your opinion of this incentive-based approach?

- 65%

I would not support it
- 35%

I would support it



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